

# point three

one shilling

July 1970



POINT THREE is the  
monthly magazine  
of Toc H





*Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment: 1. to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man; 2. to give personal service; 3. to find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others; 4. to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.*

## July 1970

### On the cover

Professional dancers from the Cornell Company rehearsing for the Albert Hall performance of "Light". The background is part of the Roman Wall of London in the forecourt of Midland Bank House, Tower Hill. Full coverage of Toc H Festival '70 in the August issue of Point Three.

*Photo: Bob Broeder*

EDITOR Ken Prideaux-Brune

ASSOC. EDITOR Huw Gibbs

Advertising, Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

# point three

Editorial Office, 41 Trinity Square,  
London E.C.3. 01-709 0472

Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement

## beauty and the humiliated

"There is beauty and there are the humiliated," wrote Camus. "Whatever difficulties the enterprise may present I would like never to be unfaithful to either the one or the other."

To be faithful to the humiliated, to show compassion for those in need, to fight not merely to relieve poverty but to eradicate it—these things are central to our faith in Christ and our commitment to Toc H. Without them our faith is empty and meaningless and our religion simply spiritual selfishness. Religion of this kind is indeed, as Marx rightly said, "the opium of the people", designed to preserve the *status quo* rather than to build the Kingdom of God. The Christian cannot stand aloof from the struggle against racism, which is clearly the front line in the fight between good and evil in our generation—and this may involve taking part in protests and demonstrations as well as attempting to build bridges of personal friendship. The Christian cannot stand aloof from politics, for it is in the political arena that the fight for justice and freedom takes place. The statement that all men are children of one Father, are of equal worth in the sight of God, is a political statement—and a revolutionary political statement at that.

And yet, "man does not live by bread alone". A concern with politics, with this world, is only a part, though an important part, of the Christian gospel. There is also beauty. In an article recently published in *New Christian*, to which I am indebted for the quotation with which I began, the American theologian Robert McAfee Brown writes: "I feel as though my own attempts to justify Christian involvement in the secular movements of the time are getting nailed down, and from that base we must explore again the whole

dimension of the gospel that centres on mystery, grace, transcendence and 'a rumour of angels'."

The more we are aware of the need to be involved in the real issues of contemporary society the greater the temptation, in Brown's words, "to forget the dimensions of life not covered by ethics". John Hull, in our April issue, put it this way: "The use of man's leisure time needs to be creative. With the progress in automation, education and even social conscience, there is a vast gap in man's understanding of beauty and the need for it to make one whole. This might be found in a tree, a flower, a symphony, a poem, a book, a picture or a brussel sprout: but there are signs that these seeming frivolities are very much in the background of man's thoughts and understanding."

The gurgling music of a mountain stream, the deep silence of the hills, sunlight shining through the fresh green leaves of early summer, moonlight sparkling on the ripples of the sea—these are all part of the real world, part of the glory and the wonder that are essential if we are to achieve any kind of wholeness. "To see a world in a grain of sand,  
/And a Heaven in a wild flower,/Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,/And eternity in an hour."—The mysticism of a Blake is not given to many of us, but all of us can, if we will, become more aware of the beauty in the world around us.

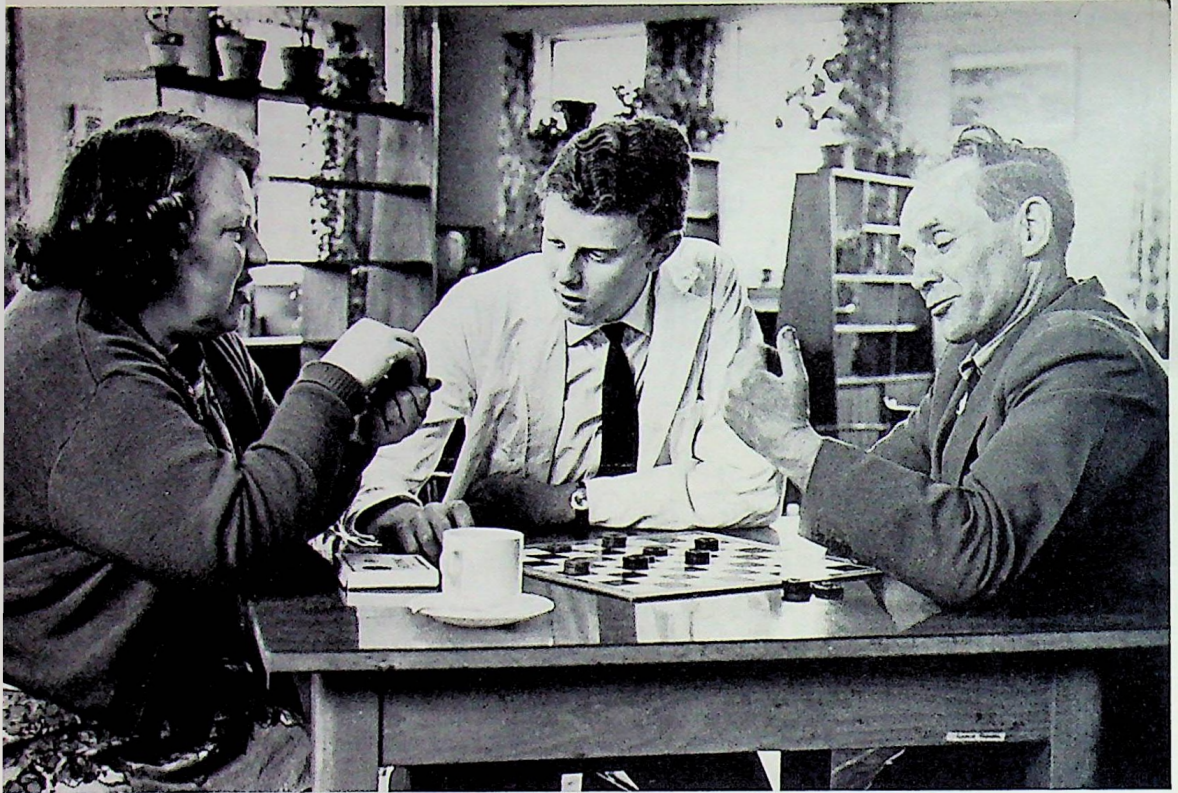
To gain an appreciation of beauty and to ignore the humiliated is to deny the faith that is in us. To serve the humiliated and to ignore the beauty in the world is to become dry and narrow. We must try in Toc H "never to be unfaithful to either the one or the other".

K.P.B.



# closing the gap

Photo: National Association for Mental Health.



Last month Douglas Butterfield wrote about the need for volunteers in the mental health field and referred to the Toc H project at Warlingham Park Hospital, Croydon. This project is described in more detail by John Allt, a Community Service Volunteer working at the Croydon Centre.

It is now two years since the Croydon Centre became involved with voluntary activities at Warlingham Park Psychiatric Hospital. On alternate weekends groups of young volunteers travel out to the hospital by minibus and then work in the wards for a day, and, on Saturdays, assist at the Social Club in the afternoon. Through these personal contacts with the patients at Warlingham, individual volunteers are helping to close the gap which distance and suspicion have placed between the community and the mentally ill.

Volunteers helping on the wards at Warlingham try to divide their time between giving practical assistance to the staff, and



personal attention to individual patients. But it has not been easy to decide just how far a voluntary helper should undertake menial tasks, and how far he should try to talk to, and interest, the patients. At first, naturally, some of the staff resented the presence of the volunteers. But now most of them accept and guide volunteers, who help in the routine work of feeding and dressing patients, as well as taking them out for walks and giving additional personal care. It is often possible for volunteers to talk to patients while they share in a common activity, and in any case volunteers deliberately try to involve the more immobile patients in conversation.

### The value

The value to the individual patient of voluntary work in the wards is not easy to assess. Most of the wards which are visited by volunteers are those for female geriatric patients, who do need considerable practical assistance, but who often enjoy the chance to reminisce and to hold a prolonged, intelligent conversation with someone new, or even to go for a walk with a young person. One of the more obvious successes of the weekend volunteers was when Richard Coombes, a local sixth former, played his guitar to groups of old ladies in one of the more difficult "back wards". They responded so well to the playing that Richard toured half a dozen more wards, encouraging patient participation by singing popular songs, before a guitar string snapped in the middle of "Kum Bi Yah". However, infrequent visits to wards by volunteers are unlikely to produce dramatic changes in the condition of a patient, and the success of a volunteer in the wards depends upon his or her personality, their willingness to accept the circumstances of a ward, and the co-operation of the staff. In fact the experience is often more beneficial to the volunteers at first, although any change in the normal hospital routine may temporarily distract the patients from their own problems.

Toc H is not the only organisation to send weekend volunteers to Warlingham; it is one particular group working within a general framework organised by the Croydon Volunteer Aid Project, which co-ordinates voluntary activities at the hospital. But Toc H volunteers

can take the credit for initiating the Social Club, which is held for one and a half hours on Saturday afternoons in the hospital's social centre. Refreshments, bingo, table tennis, and other games are organised for the patients by the volunteers. Usually between 50 and 80 people attend the Social Club, although numbers temporarily dropped when the Club was told that it was to become self-supporting, and a one shilling charge was made for the bingo. Some self-help and patient responsibility was introduced when a group of three patients offered to bake cakes and biscuits for the Club, and one of the local volunteers offered to sell them, and to act as treasurer of the Club.

The success of the weekly Social Club depends primarily on the enthusiasm, and the number, of volunteers who attend. The Club provides an opportunity for patients to join with volunteers in various activities, and although initially it attracted mainly a group of middle aged and elderly patients who wanted to play bingo, younger patients now attend more frequently. Toc H volunteers do not now run each meeting of the Social Club themselves, and of the other groups who run the Club, those from Sevenoaks School have injected a very considerable vitality and involve a large number of patients in their activities. Perhaps the Club does not cater sufficiently for younger patients, and perhaps there has recently been a lack of new ideas to bring variety to the well-tried formula. But the Club has succeeded in making an impression on many patients, and there is a distinctive atmosphere at the "Toc H Social Club" which is not normally present in the canteen of the social centre.

The number of volunteers who work at the hospital on any particular Saturday or Sunday of a Toc H weekend rarely exceeds six or eight. But in fact during the two years of Toc H involvement with the project, a very much larger number of volunteers have at some time or another visited the hospital. Since current statistics suggest that one in every nine girls and one in every 14 boys at school now will spend part of their lives in hospital because of mental illness, this attempt to inform young people about mental illness, and to remind those in mental institutions that the community has not forgotten them, seems particularly appropriate.

## CONFERENCE (A)GENDER

During the reading of the New Zealand proposed constitution under the heading Dom. Ex Elections and after the naming of the usual officers it was stated that "*there would be three executive officers, two of whom shall be men or women . . .*" It was the end—the conference just fell to pieces with mirth.



# breaking new ground at the points of tension

Birmingham—two  
Ken Prideaux-Brune

"It must be stressed that involvement in urban areas is in no way a panacea for our membership problems, but simply the way in which Toc H ought to spend the next stage in its growth. It happens to be right, because inside urban situations lie the real conflicts which Toc H is committed to try and reconcile." So wrote John Mitchell in a report to the Central Executives on the work of Mark VI and this makes a logical starting point for a consideration of the aims and purposes behind the Movement's involvement in the problems of inner Birmingham.

The belief that Toc H is called to operate at the points of tension in society is central to the approach of Mark VI. John Mitchell puts it this way: "Toc H is distinctive only in the extent to which it generates human contact between people who would not otherwise

have such contact, or would seek to avoid it. The work in Birmingham begins to be justified in so far as such unlikely meetings are beginning to happen. On a number of issues people within society have met and got to know people outside society; black and white have met, if only in a small way, and communicated something; people from stable and satisfactory backgrounds and environments have shared for short periods the problems of those denied both."

And these unlikely and exciting meetings take place within Toc H, too. The key people in the small "soup group", for instance, include two residents of the Mark, a music student and a plumber's mate and also a lecturer in theology at Birmingham University. Similar differences of background and experience exist in the other groups which operate from the Mark.

Of course, the more Toc H is involved at points of real tension the more it will have to be prepared to face unpopularity, the more it will need the courage to be controversial. To be all things to all men might be more comfortable but, at least in the Birmingham situation, would be a betrayal of all that the Movement stands for. "Reckoning nothing of the world's opinion . . . for ourselves or this our family" wrote the authors of the Main Resolution; and to live up to that statement of intent can demand real courage. The attempt to offer friendship to gypsy families, for instance, brought abuse both from some city councillors and from local residents' action committees, culminating in an anonymous threat that the next member to visit the



Seen on a wall in Selly Oak, near where the Toc H children's group operates. Since the photo was taken the sign has been replaced by one which reads: "We are beginning to like Toc H."

Photo: John Heath



site would be shot. Perhaps the lesson of Mark VI for the rest of us is the profound but disturbing truth that respectability is not always a virtue and may at times be one of the devil's subtlest temptations.

The work in which Mark VI is engaged is demanding and those involved are obviously deeply committed. As one young man put it: "Meeting with inadequates, delinquents, criminals and problem families demands a degree of fairmindedness greater than the academic." This commitment is, however, in the first instance, commitment to a particular project rather than to Toc H. "When originally introduced to the Mark," one resident told me, "I knew little about Toc H and I am still not clear as to its aims and objectives. The project I have been involved in, and the many I have observed being carried out from Toc H, have all helped to meet some pressing need of a wide spectrum of underprivileged people and communities. These projects, however, do not enable me to create a 'Toc H image'."

### Widening loyalty

Ten years ago Toc H was bewailing its failure to communicate to young people, and in that ten years we have learned how, beyond any shadow of doubt. Five years ago Toc H was bewailing its lack of contact with the urban situation, and in those five years we have got some real clues as to how to do this. Now Toc H is faced with the next problem—how to widen loyalty to Toc H among young people and in these urban areas. "That," says John Mitchell, "is the current problem we are up against, and the problem to which we are increasingly turning our attention. We are still baffled, but we are baffled by the problem of solving the last step in the solution, not the first step—and if we get this answer right, there will be no holding Toc H."

Meanwhile, the Mark provides a valuable link between Toc H and other voluntary and statutory bodies. "I believe this is one of its main functions," said one Toc H member, "Toc H needs new life from outside, and particularly from young people. Mark VI is essentially a young Mark and has tapped the energy and enthusiasm of young people." And, while most branches in the West Midlands are too far away from the Mark to be actively involved in its activities, the Mark is nonetheless having an impact on the Area. In the words of a Walsall branch member: "As a generalisation I would think that branches feel that Mark VI is part of the local Toc H scene. There is no doubt that they take pride in any success the Mark has, and enjoy the reflected glory."

In view of the current debate throughout Toc H on the use of properties it was perhaps inevitable that someone would raise the



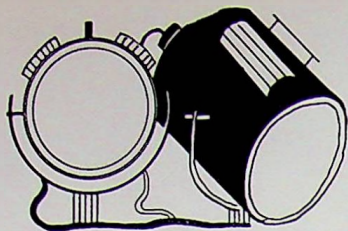
The "Soup Group" in action.

question of whether Mark VI is the right kind of building in the right area for the work which Toc H is trying to do. The Walsall member, who is also a member of the Mark's Outward Group, put it this way: "It is a very large house and the upkeep is costly. There may well be a case for either a smaller house, in perhaps another area of the city, where a small, highly organised group could operate, or perhaps the sale proceeds from Mark VI would even finance two smaller houses which would serve the dual purposes of being staff houses and centres of operation for local work." The house has provided a nucleus of volunteers and a focal point for the various activities but some argue that the possession of a building is in no way essential for the continuance of these activities. One of the volunteers working with children, on the other hand, believes, "we would not have begun to have the present success—however limited it may be—if the Mark had not been there as a constant factor to draw on for rooms, for volunteers and, not least, for encouragement".

Whatever the future may hold, the fundamental task of Toc H in inner Birmingham will remain the same—"to generate human contact between people who would not otherwise have such contact", to try and bring a reconciling spirit into situations of conflict, to live out the Christian vocation to be part of the brotherhood of the deprived. And to do this without being too earnest about it, remembering that hope and joy are essential elements in the Gospel message.

## Next month South Wales.





Bob Harvey

# spotlight on Llanarmon - yn - lâl



**Where?** Up in the hills—the wild and woolly country on the Flintshire/Denbighshire border.

**How many?** Seventeen men and a girl—Blodwen.

**Blodwen?** Age 3½, weight 30 cwt.—our pride and joy—a Ford Transit Minibus.

**Mixture?** Architects, schoolmasters, engineers, quarrymen, a farmer, a shop-keeper, a bank-clerk, and Bill—blind from birth but hot stuff on the harmonica.

**"Characters"?** 18 of them, especially Bill and Blodwen.

**Languages spoken?** Welsh—and several kinds of English.

**Meeting place?** Winston Churchill said, "We build our homes, and thereafter they build us". Very true. We did, all by our little selves. We rebuilt a derelict shippon ("cow-shed" over in England). All in stone, slate floors, old oak trusses, roaring fire in huge stone fireplace, carpets, arm-chairs. Snug as a bug and bags of character. All paid for and neatly vested in Toc H Inc. But our home.

**What do we do?** Have fun.

**How?**

By getting the village together as often as we can think up an excuse.

By giving film shows.

By building a kitchen on to the old school-room for the church.

Sausage, mash and carols at Christmas.



By starting and sponsoring a Morris Dancing Troupe in the Village. Very successful.

By helping sundry old souls and their cottages in terms of decorating, renovating and what have you.

By taking the village kids to the theatre in Liverpool to see a good show.

Leek soup suppers on the Friday nearest St. David's Day.

By organising a grand village "do" every summer with everything from the Show Queen to knockout football (literally!) for the lads. Medals too.

Ssh! We've even made trees into logs.

Blodwen helps too. We transport choirs, Guides and anything else needing transport in this remote, and largely unexplored, region.

By having a week's holiday together as a branch with wives and kids. We took Eddie's bus to Poperinge one year. And startled the Dutchmen in Volendam another year.

By building furlongs of stone wall at Dor Knap over two years, and the deep pleasure of a few quiet minutes, all together, in the Chapel each morning before breakfast.

We enjoy ourselves.

**What don't we like?** Hypocrites who talk Toc H and live differently.

Being ordered about.

Attending feeble functions and get-togethers organised by Areas/Districts/Branches who can't think of anything more worthwhile to do.

Branches who won't make a big effort to reach their Family Purse target.

Snow.

Bingo.



**Future prospects?** Da iawn, diolch!

*Translation:* Very good, thank you.

Photo on facing page. The first initiation in the partly finished branch room. ABOVE. A new window is fitted.

## welcome point

The following new branches were formally recognised by the Central Executives at their May meeting: Broadstairs (w), North Hinksey (j), Thornton Cleveleys (j), Verden (j).

The following branches elected new members during the month:

6—Melton Mowbray (w).

3—Somerton (m).

2—Biggleswade (w), East Leake (m), Hayle (w), Knightthorpe (j), Mark VII (m), Northiam (m), North Nottingham (j), Penrith (w), Saltford (j), Seaton Carew (w), Southern Area (m), Swannington (w), Ulverston (w), West Worthing (w), Wroughton (w).

1—Alfreton (m), Barnsley (m), Biggleswade (m), Bourne End (w), Buckley (m), Clacton Afternoon (w), Clitheroe (m), Dover (w), Edmond (j), Fleet (w), Godalming (j), Greenbank (w), Harefield (j), Hayling Island (m), Highams Park (j), Holyhead (m), Keighley (w), Kirby Lonsdale (w), Lymington (m), Minster-in-Sheppey (w), Oulton Broad (w), Plympton (m), Rhiwbina (m), Scarborough (w), Sheerness (w), Sittingbourne (m), Trimley (w), Welling (w), Winsham (j).

We extend a warm welcome to the 68 new members.

# Instrument of Thy peace

Two years ago a small book by Alan Paton *Instrument of Thy Peace* was published in America. It is now available in Britain as a paper back\*, and should be one of the books read by Toc H members this year.

We owe a great debt to Alan Paton, and most recently because it was his and Don McKenzie's suggestion that the famous prayer of St. Francis of Assisi should provide the alternative words for the Ceremony of Light. Alan Paton in his turn acknowledges his debt to St. Francis who drew his strength from Christ. Now we may share one man's prayers and meditations on these profound words of St. Francis:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there  
is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is sadness, joy; where there is  
darkness, light.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so  
much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
not so much to be understood, as to  
understand; not so much to be loved, as to  
love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in  
pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in  
dying that we are born again to eternal life.*

In this personal anthology of Alan Paton's, there recurs like a haunting musical theme, "And help me this day to do some work of peace for You." This is one of those rare books which have a worth of their own that makes the ramblings of a review a waste of space. Only quotations can be adequate introduction.

"Why did Jesus hold spellbound those who listened to him? It was because he showed them they were not helpless victims in the grip of fears, hates, the past, the world. They were the salt of the earth, the light of the world. He showed them a new thing—that obedience and freedom are inseparable. For where is the joy of living in a society in which all obey and none is free? Or in which all are free and none obeys? Something in them rose up to meet him: they were caught up into the bondage which is the perfect freedom; they became his servants and his freedmen; they became his followers and his disciples; in him they found meaning for their lives, and there is no freedom like the freedom of finding

meaning for one's life, of becoming the instruments of a Lord who helps us to be what we were meant to be. Yet many resist him, believing that to follow him is to lose the whole world. . . . ."

"God's love, though it is not limited to us as instruments, nevertheless uses us as instruments, so that those who are in need of it, find it in us. It is possible that some will never find it if they do not find it in us. And it is also possible that some will not believe in it, because they do not find it in us. 'If YOU are a follower of Christ,' they say, 'I want no part of him.'

"So the matters of faith and of love are seen to be inseparable. If we do not love, then others will not have faith."

\*Fontana, 5/-.



**Make Hovis  
your  
daily bread.**



# personality point

## Phyllis Wolfe

It will be hard to think of the Toc H staff without Phyllis Wolfe but the time has come for her to retire. Phyllis joined the Women's Association (or League of Women Helpers, as it then was) in December 1922 and has played a leading part in the life of Toc H throughout the intervening years. Perhaps her greatest contribution has been in the field of training. She reads widely, has a retentive memory and possesses the ability to share the fruits of her reading with others. As member of staff with responsibility for the Oxford & Thames Valley Area at the time of the first joint branches she played an important part in working out the administrative procedures that were an essential prelude to integration. We wish her well in her retirement.

**John Gingell** has accepted a living in Derbyshire and will be leaving the staff in the autumn.

**Eric Caulton**, who became Builders' Secretary three years ago on his retirement as director of a shipping firm, has now retired in earnest. **Les Wheatley** has been appointed Registrar with the task of combining membership and Builders' records into a unified records department.

**Reg Peters** has resigned as Hon. Provincial Marks Commissioner. He remains secretary of the Wakefield Trust and will also be able to devote more time to looking after Tubby's personal affairs.

## notices

**Royal Charter.** Considerable progress has been made, in consultation with the Privy Council and the Charity Commissioners, in preparing a new draft of the Charter and Bye-laws. A special meeting of the Central Council was held on July 4 to discuss the new draft.

**John Callf** has been asked by some of those who took part in the Jubilee year pilgrimage to the Holy Land to lead a pilgrimage "in the steps of St. Paul" next year. A 16-day tour, arranged by Orientours, is being planned, beginning on Tuesday, October 5, 1971. Out and back by air. Places visited include: Athens, Izmir, Ephesus, Laodicea, Corinth, Pergamum and Thessalonica. Approximate cost £145. Enquiries to John at 133 High Street, Broadway, Worcs.

**Wine and cheese party.** On Saturday, September 5, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. At The Holme, Bedford College, Regents Park, London. Organised by West Central (w) branch. In aid of Toc H at home and overseas. Tickets, price 10s., from Miss C. L. Gordon, 3b, Heathway Court, Finchley Road, London, N.W.3.

## in a nutshell

Which is the world's longest book title? This one, published (as if you couldn't guess) in the United States: "How to Write Ten Best-Sellers in Your Spare Time and Become the First Author on Your Block, Unless There is Already One Living on Your Block, in which case you will become the Second Author on Your Block, and that's Okay, Too."

Faced with the question "What is Toc H?" most of us find it necessary to give a reply a great deal longer than this book title. Jimmy Neilly, of Hemel Hempstead, has sent us this attempt at a definition:

I am a member of Toc H, in which exists a Christian fellowship which recognises no man as a stranger—acting as a good neighbour wherever may be heard the lonely cry of a soul in distress.

What can other readers suggest as a brief yet comprehensive definition of Toc H? We would like to publish a selection of readers' suggestions in *Point Three*. The briefer the better, with a limit of 50 words. Send your suggestions to *Point Three*, 41, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

## obituary

**We regret to announce the death of the following members:**

**In April:** David Brown (Edgbaston), Peter E. F. B. Cook (Queenstown, S. Africa), Marion Hawtin (Barry), Edith M. Lee (Durrington), Geoffrey MacEntegart (Bletchley), H. Gwynne Newman (Edinburgh), Harry Parry (Weston Rhyn), Norman Piper (Holyhead). **In May:** E. Ralph Bond (Higham-Ferrers), Reginald B. Coulman (West Midlands Area), Lilian George (St. Ives), Alan V. Hockly (Denton), Minnie Keith (Sudbury), "Bertie" Paul (Madras), A. Anthony Percival (Morecambe).

**We give thanks for their lives.**



During the holiday period several million people will pass through London Airport. How many of them will be aware of the existence of the airport's Chapel? West Drayton & Yiewsley branch, several of whose members work at the airport, used this Chapel for their celebration of the World Chain of Light. They invited Ben Lewers, the Anglican Chaplain, to write about the work of the Chaplaincy for *Point Three*.

BEA Photo.





The Chapel of St. George has been opened since October, 1968. A great many have used it, and it is gradually becoming known to a wide range of people. It has three altars, but, shortly after it was opened, the three chaplains decided to use just one, and this works very well.

Ministry here is obviously in its infancy, but certain things are becoming clear. This has been helped by sharing experience with other chaplains in other airports around the world. We have an annual conference, the next being in Paris in October.

What goes on at Heathrow? First the scale and scope of the job. Heathrow employs over 45,000, though of course not all these are here at one time. This year there will be over 15,000,000 passengers. Over 35,000,000 people come to greet or to see people off. Cargo traffic is astonishing, and by the end of this year we shall be handling over 100 flights per week by the Boeing 747, let alone all the others. Traffic for February 1970

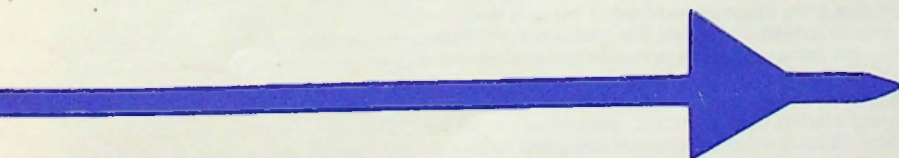
increased by over 14 per cent over February last year.

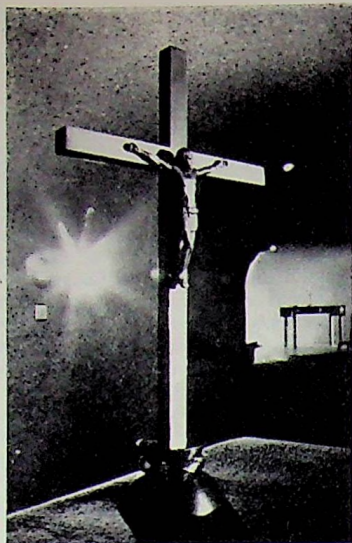
### The great debate

In the midst of all this, people are still people, and need to be treated as such. The Christian Gospel is as relevant as ever it was. The great debate between law and freedom, authority and permission, is of total importance, and only a system of belief that knows the value of creative failure and of conflict, and more importantly believes that these are shown by the Lord God made man Himself, can offer to this debate elements that make sense of what appears to be a mindless mess.

A Christian needs to keep the balance. Love of God and love of neighbour, worship and work—the one shades into the other, but a Christian is unmistakably called to worship. Time is scarce here, so the few do it for the

# A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE at HEATHROW





The crucifix in St. George's Chapel, Heathrow Airport. Taken from a post card on sale at the chapel.

many. There is full Protestant intercommunion.

Industrial mission is the key to the whole task. Like any other industrial mission the task is to relate and proclaim the Gospel in a working setting, and this involves much learning and listening, study, infinite care for human relations in industry, understanding of trade unions and management structures. A vast amount of visiting goes on in the three Terminals, amongst the British Airports Authority, BEA, BOAC, Police, Customs, Immigration, Pan American, and others. An informal group is starting to meet, the chaplaincy is getting involved in apprentice training, an excellent and strong committee oversees the work, and other lines are gradually taking shape.

Travellers wish to get through Heathrow as fast as possible. The chaplaincy is not here to impede them, but the Chapel is open night and day, and the clergy are always on call in case of need. We make the place as welcoming as possible with warmth, flowers, a bookstall, postcards and very capable vergers.

Heathrow makes its living from the safe transportation of passengers and goods all over the world. About 50 per cent of the people of this world do not have the basic necessities of life, like homes, food, jobs. We use this Chapel to shout this aloud. Privilege and wealth brings with it responsibility. All through the ages, from the people of Israel onwards, the failure to recognise this has led to downfall.

We are learning slowly what it is to have the whole Church working together, and we shall get on quicker when the other denominations appoint full time staff. What sticks out at present is the enormous contribution the Roman Catholic church has to make in terms of worship, duty, obedience, authority and responsibility, and what an equally enormous contribution the Protestant churches have to make both in the creative use of failure and of conflict, and an understanding of the secular. Of course these lines are blurred, but a combination will be formidable.

As the idea of ministry get wider, so we must share our experience. As with this article, we try to say what is going on here, and we need to learn what is going on elsewhere.

Part of the much needed resurrection of society today can only come through a far greater emphasis upon prevention, as well as cure. If we can provide a Counselling Service which draws to it those whose marriages are crumbling, the drinker who is worried about it, the lonely, the angry and the frustrated, and do it before the situation gets out of control, then we may have helped a little. To do this, as to do much else, needs money and very skilful use of advertising, as well as the right people to do the job.

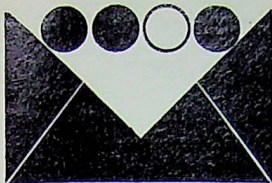
This is how it stands at present. Much is hoped, little is achieved. By God's grace, we keep trying.

## 120 at Norfolk gathering

The story of the Good Samaritan was the theme of the sermon preached by the Rev. D. M. Lindford at a recent gathering of over 120 members from branches in Norfolk.

In this story Jesus showed what being a good neighbour is. It is good to subscribe to charity to extend their work, but this is not a substitute for personal service. Jesus radiated love. He attracted people with disease, sinners, the depressed and rejected. Jesus showed us a real life situation, not a theological definition. "Who is my neighbour?" This has great relevance to us today. Do we respond to people as they are, what they are? Can we look beyond clothes, colour, habits, washed or unwashed? The Samaritan put the man's need before his own. A courageous decision, and he saw the job through. How often do we do the same? Do we make excuses? The world is full of human suffering: the road where we live, our place of work. A true neighbour looks at a man, any man, as his brother. Jesus' definition, a man who needs your help. "Love thy neighbour": this do and you will live.





### "A Moonraker's View"

I have read Michael Sherwin's views on the article by Chippenham branch and feel that as a member of that branch a few words of explanation might be helpful. Maybe other branch members will add their views.

I think the article contained all the points we wished to make so I will therefore deal only with Michael's letter. With some of his points I personally agree, but others indicate that perhaps he missed my point. I did not thank God that our branch doesn't have to cope with such problems as alcoholism, since we have already done this, with great reward. I was thankful that we have not the evils of bad housing and environment which contribute to those problems. Except by influencing public opinion I fail to see how Toc H, by simply prodding and probing, can improve the medical facilities or substantially alter environmental conditions. These are matters of high finance, which Toc H does not possess.

One is aware of a drift from rural to urban areas, which is due to economic factors. Clearly our cities are not always cosy places to live in, and many would prefer to move from them if they had a choice.

Whilst I agree most wholeheartedly that to neglect anyone's problems is to disregard Toc H principles, there must be a balance between what we would like to do and what we are able to achieve. High ideals motivate Michael's remarks, but let us remember the practical problems of falling membership, especially in those areas where Toc H is most needed. I only ask that the challenge to Toc H members be reasonable. Do we ever challenge members and dispirit them, or is it the reverse? It seems to me that before we spend too much time on the impossible we should spend a little on the possible.

Reg Coates

Chippenham

### Equipment for the disabled

In your March issue you printed an article about telephones for the disabled. I thought your readers might be interested in the equipment I have. I am severely disabled with motor neurone disease. I can move my legs and use my feet to control my equipment, some of which is available on the NHS. I have a "power drive" chair, specially adapted to give me foot control, and a POSM (patient operated selector mechanism). . . . This unit, while small, is very remarkable; with the aid of a micro-switch I can summon help at any time (an external alarm bell is also supplied). I can put on and off any electric gadget after it has been plugged into the unit: I use a fire, reading lamp, radio, and record player. An intercom, for answering the door; a special door lock is available and is usually bought for the patient by the local health authority. My speech is very poor and communication has been hard until recently, but now, through the M/S Society and Invalids at Home, I am the proud owner of a special typewriter. This machine has to be seen to be believed . . . unfortunately they are very expensive, but sometimes, as in my case, a grant is given. For reading I have been loaned, through Toc H, a page turner: there are many different makes, mine is a Kirdon and available through the Red Cross.

The POSM unit is available on the NHS. The power drive chair can be obtained on application to the Ministry of Health. Information regarding the unit can be obtained from Roger Jefcoate, POSM Research Project, 63 Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Dorothy Brownless

Hartlepool

### Associates

I am sure that Allan Hunt means well in wanting Toc H to "wake up", but for the life of me I cannot see what his suggestions would do towards producing that or any other state! Allan has confused himself by not reading the Central Guard's memo on Associates a little more carefully. Had he done so he would have realised that membership, as constituting a commitment, was very carefully and deliberately not involved in the new category. When he talks of creating a fourth class of membership his facts are still adrift. Associates do not constitute a fourth class, nor do Builders constitute a third. Builders

are committed to no more than financial support though it is a fact that many give considerably more than that through personal practical support. Their place in the scheme of things as financial supporters is quite clear: they are a very essential pillar in the whole financial structure of Toc H and without their aid and interest Toc H would be considerably the poorer. What the Central Guard has in fact done is to provide opportunity for the many who give practical help and support to their local branch to be associated more formally than they are at present. For many, it has become a step towards membership; it is hoped it may become so for many more but it is certainly not intended to be a membership trap for them. There was clear need to create a place for these excellent friends of Toc H locally—the positive answer is Associates.

Les Wheatley

### Window boxes

Having been asked to visit an old lady who had just taken up residence in a home for old people, I took along with me a small bunch of garden flowers. When I called again a week later I found that this very tiny bunch—now far from fresh—had been divided into two vases, and the old lady proudly informed me that she had kept the forget-me-nots alive by picking off each head as it died!

Knowing that she had once been a keen gardener and seeing that she had a wide window sill I asked if she would like a window box. She was thrilled at the idea, so having got permission from the matron I filled a light, plastic window box with a variety of long flowering plants and took it along to her (with a small bottle of "baby bio"). Thus she has now her own small garden to tend.

I write in the hope that other readers with gardens will think of the old ladies in their vicinity who have so little to call their own.

Anne Hayling

Beecham, Berks.

**Six pages of Festival '70 pictures.  
Next month in  
"Point Three".**



## newspoint

# WE ARE READY TO ADOPT NEW METHODS

## says General Secretary

One of the main points made by Gilbert Francis, during his first visit to East Anglia since his appointment, was that the Movement was moving into the 1970's ready to adopt whatever new methods were needed to meet the changes in society. He stressed however that although methods of work may change the fundamental purpose of Toc H would always be the same.

After describing the origins of Toc H Gilbert continued: "Its purpose today is to try to assess the problems in the neighbourhood and the needs of its people; to try to find the answer and to accept responsibility for doing something about it." During an earlier session Gilbert reminded his audience that, "the most important thing about Toc H is that it is a meeting ground for everyone however different

and whatever their differences."

Gilbert was speaking at a weekend conference held at the Pleasance, Overstrand and arranged by Alan Brooke, Hon. staff for East Anglia.

## The park bench group

Yes, that really is the name of a new Toc H group in Cardiff, so called because it came into being round a park bench. The group, which consists of mothers of young children, owes its existence to the enthusiasm of Mrs. Val Pearce. They have raised money for such things as helping a blind mother with a young son. They have organised a "swop shop" for children's clothes and they have taken action to try to get the toilets in the park improved.



To mark the 40th anniversary of Alfreton branch a minibus was presented to Ridgeway hospital, Belper. In the picture, handing the keys to Mr. Duncan Swale, Chairman Walton Sub-group Hospital Committee, is Jim Bush, Pilot and fund secretary. On his right is M. Hutchins, branch chairman and on the extreme right are Gilbert Francis, General Secretary and Canon Craig, branch padre.

Photo: Derby Evening Telegraph.

## He collected £23

On their annual flag day Conway branch this year raised £90. Barry Johns, the youngest member of the branch, himself collected over £23 and the branch treasurer, Reg Plimmer, asks whether this is a record for an individual effort. Can anyone match it?

The money goes towards meeting the cost of the branch's service during the year, in particular the Christmas distribution of parcels to the elderly, and the boys' camp run in conjunction with Toc H in Crewe. 12 boys from Crewe will be camping for a week this month in the area known as Fairy Glen, near Penmaenmawr.

## Square One

*Chairs themselves aren't bad things, but chairs in straight rows are the very devil.*

*Tubby—Toc H Journal, December 1925.*

## A sell out for flower garlands

At this year's Spalding Tulip Parade, which, as last year, had to be postponed for a week due to the prolonged winter, South Lincolnshire District, in addition to entering their decorated float, sold Hawaiian style garlands of tulips to the vast crowd of visitors at 2s. a time. The demand for garlands was so great that publicity over the loudspeaker system had to be stopped and, says Magazine Correspondent John Orange, "every available member had to spend the whole time preparing more and more garlands for the ever-increasing queue of customers." Altogether 1,100 garlands were sold, each one containing about 40 tulip heads. £110 were raised for the Family Purse. In addition, the

fact that because of the last minute change of date the Parade took place just one week before the BBC appeal for Toc H "presented an excellent opportunity," says John Orange, "for the distribution of leaflets publicising this fact."

## Shop raises £250

£250 was raised for the Family Purse by the four women's branches and one men's branch in Darlington during one week in May. They were given the use of an empty shop for the week and sold what District Secretary Teddie Fletcher describes as "nearly new goods" collected as gifts.



## WEYBRIDGE SUCCESS IN SPORTS

A team from Weybridge, entering the Toc H London Sports for only the second year, carried off three trophies. Entries for this year's Sports, held at Battersea Park in May, came from as far away as Mark XI, Leicester. And Gerald Calver, of Lutterworth branch, regained the 800 metres cup which he won some years ago when a marksman in London. The Mark championship was won by Mark VII, Fitzroy Square, London.

## NZ staff legacy

Toc H is named as one of three residuary legacies in the Will of the late Lady Bowerbank. The money, which will not come to Toc H until the death of the life tenant, is intended to make it possible to take on a full-time member of staff in New Zealand. In a letter to Tubby reporting this general member Winton Bear also writes: "In Wellington the men and women are fully integrated, and this appears to work well. The ladies are all hard workers and give that feminine touch and viewpoint which would of necessity be lacking in an all-male branch."

## Slimming for Charity



A new twist to the charity walk has been found by two Dover schoolgirls, Susan Burnett and Angela Cotton. They decided that walking was good for the figure and if they must walk to keep slim then why not find sponsors and give the money to Toc H. We were recommended to them by the *Dover Express*. A very nice thought which resulted in £5 being given to the local branch by the two girls. Thank you girls.  
*Photo: Dover Express.*

## Young mothers had nowhere to meet

Higham Ferrers women's branch have been responsible for launching a club for young mothers in the town. The decision to try to start the club was prompted by the closure of the infant welfare centre, which formerly fulfilled the function of bringing together young mothers, especially those who may have just moved into the town's new estate. The branch displayed posters and distributed information to women with small children and their initiative met with a response which Mrs. Dorothy Rollings, a former branch chairman, describes as "absolutely marvellous". 60 came to the inaugural meeting and 40 attended the first of the regular monthly meetings. At the meetings there will be talks, demonstrations and film shows of interest to young mothers. The branch have clearly uncovered a real need. What is more they have had the wisdom, having launched the project, to hand over complete control to a committee of the young mothers.

### A BIT OF SELF HELP

... "on the whole we hear too little of Toc H. Its own modesty cannot help the cause for which it exists."

*Tailpiece of an article in Wands-  
worth Boro' News, February 27.*

# BIRTHDAY CONFERENCE ON SEEBOHM REPORT

1970 being the 21st anniversary of the formation of Tadcaster branch, the members felt that one way of marking the occasion would be to bring together members of the community concerned with all aspects of social welfare. Realising the important effect of the implementation of the findings of the Seebohm Committee it was decided to hold a conference at which the Report would be discussed. The Lady James of Rusholme, a member of the Committee, accepted our invitation to be the principal speaker.

The conference was divided into two sessions, in the first of which Lady James spoke of the changes which had come about in the nature of the social services since Beveridge. She referred

### Ted Riley

to the problems which arose from duplication of services, from frequent lack of co-ordination, and the frustration caused to people in need. Lady James spoke of the Committee's recommendations which have already been the subject of articles in *Point Three*.

The second session was an open forum. The panel consisted of: Mr. Raymond T. Clarke, Yorkshire Council of Social Service, Mr. D. Copley, Divisional Welfare Officer WRCC, and Johnnie MacMillan, Toc H Northern Regional staff, as well as Lady James.

The discussion showed that there was considerable anxiety about the future role of the voluntary worker, but members of the panel were convinced that the skilled voluntary worker would still be able to initiate new forms of social service, to discover new needs, and to support the work of the professional.

Lady James made the point that when the Seebohm Committee undertook its survey it was not long before it realised how much need for social work was coming to light. The examination in depth of local needs is surely one of the duties of Toc H branches.

The success of this conference has encouraged Tadcaster to make this an annual event.



# NCSS Chairman asks for new voluntary service commission

The setting up of an "Independent Community Services Commission" was suggested in a speech made recently to the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts by the Chairman of the National Council of Social Service, Mr. Leslie Farrer-Brown. He stressed the vital role that voluntary organisations play in a free society and urged that the amount of money made available to the voluntary movement from public funds should be increased. He also suggested that such grants should be paid through an Independent Community Services Commission rather than, as at present, being allocated by local authorities. "Such allocation of grants would be only one of the Commission's major tasks," Mr. Farrer-Brown continued. "It would be looked to for leadership, centrally and locally, of the independent community services. It should have major national

status; its voice in public affairs should be as authoritative and commanding as that of government departments or local authorities. As leader of the third force, which necessarily is independent of government and commerce, it should be accorded constitutionally that freedom from outside control and direction that for long for the public good has been allowed to the judiciary. Predominantly, its members should be knowledgeable and enthusiastic practising volunteers, respected in the voluntary movement."

## BBC Appeal tops £2,000

At the time of going to press £2,000 had been received in response to the BBC appeal made by the Vice-Patron, the Hon. Angus Ogilvy, on May 24. Donations were still being received as a result of the leaflets widely distributed by branches. Over 1,000 people sent donations, ranging in size from a few stamps to £50. £5 5s. was pushed through the letter box of Mark III, with a note which said, "with thanks to Toc H Hackney house for their help". Among the many other donations sent in gratitude for help received from Toc H was a contribution from a Sevenoaks doctor who had happy memories of the kindness shown him by Toc H in Wiltshire when he was evacuated there as a child 30 years ago.

## Talking about talking

The Ambassador for the Netherlands, opening an international conference on house magazines, remarked: "The brain can only absorb as much as the seat can stand." Worth remembering.

## TOC H TELLS YOU WHERE TO GO

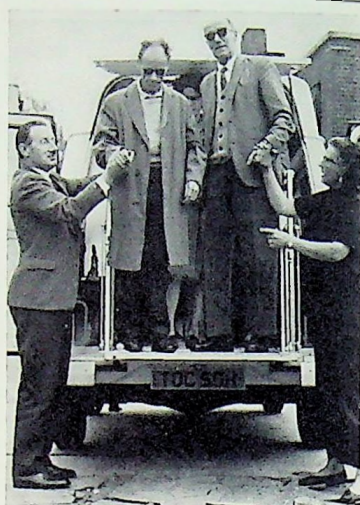
James Fisk of Edenbridge branch has produced and printed a street plan of the town, which is being sold in local shops. As well as a map there is a numbered index to the streets and roads and full information on Toc H and what it stands for, including the local scene, place and times of meetings, and branch officers. There's enterprise for you.

## Tolworth's New Bus

Time and time again the real nature and true spirit of Toc H has only shown itself during moments of great anguish and deep suffering.

At such moments, men and women attain levels of service and self-sacrifice that bring gasps of admiration from those who have not caught the vision. Such an occasion was when the Tolworth branch set about raising money for another bus, after the tragic fire which left an almost new vehicle a gutted smoking hulk of twisted metal. Now almost one year later that bus has carried its first grateful passengers. Complete with new symbol and registration TOC 50H, it is a sign of strength, determination and neighbourly concern which will be difficult to better for a long time.

Photos: George Bull.





## Film turns Members into Stars Norman Chidley

Something was needed to boost the morale at Loughton branch; something we could all do together. All our jobs at the time were individual ones and we were missing the fellowship of former days, when we had worked as a team on one glorious project. And in any case we needed some publicity for our scheme of flashing lights for the elderly.

So someone suggested that we make a film about the lights—a dramatic story of what happened in one particular case.

The trouble was that nobody in the branch had ever used a movie camera before, or had any knowledge of filming or sound recording. However, when our treasurer said he could find £10 for the expenses, we solemnly resolved to start work.

Men and women joined in enthusiastically taking on jobs as actors, script writers, camera operators, sound technicians, continuity, lighting and property. The police, ambulance services and Red Cross all agreed to play their parts. Troubles with the sound track were ironed out and slowly the film took shape. A 20-minute epic in glorious colour.

The première was attended by representatives of local bodies, the Council, doctors, WRVS, Round Table, Red Cross and, of course, the police. In true style, the leading lady was presented with a bouquet. After refreshments, a panel of members were kept busy answering questions from the public.

A number of requests to show the film have been received. The farthest from Mitcham branch, Australia, and the most unexpected from the police, for recruit training. But what has pleased us most are the people who have offered their services in helping with the scheme. Once again we had enjoyed working together to achieve a common purpose.

## PLEA FOR PEACE

Most of those who visit Poperinge know Oud Vlaenderen, the café in the main square. M. Valere, the proprietor, has on the back of his envelopes, printed in four languages, the words: "We are all brothers. No more war. World peace."

## HKP 20 revives to better things

John Chew

It has been said that Toc H is a "way of life", and that its influence can lead to some unusual jobs. Twelve months ago I met two old ex PoW chums and it was suggested that we should try and trace the whereabouts of 120 members of one of our old German Working Camps (HKP 20) which was situated in the city of Lodz in the centre of Poland (1942-44). The object of locating them was to try and organise a reunion for the spring of 1970, the 25th anniversary of our return home. This involved the writing and re-writing of letters, following up leads, contacting post masters and using local press editors. The result, by the end of 1969, was that some 95 of the original 120 camp members were located.

The question of a possible venue then arose as it was found that the old camp members were scattered between the north tip of Scotland and the tip of the West Country. Where could we find somewhere in the centre of Great Britain? A pin came down onto the map near Matlock, Derbyshire! What better location, thought I, than Alison House? So Joyce Green at headquarters was approached and willingly booked the weekend of May 8-10, 1970 (which happened also to be the 25th anniversary of VE Day). Plans pushed ahead and from those old camp chums we had been able to locate, some 45 hoped to "make it".

On the afternoon of Friday May 8 road code signs HKP 20 appeared at road junctions leading from the M1 to Cromford, and a great welcome awaited all arrivals—in spite of the greater girth

and baldness of many of them! What a weekend it was, "a super-type Toc H get-together" with a bond of joy, and of memories born from great tribulation.

### Reunion dinner

On the Saturday evening there was a wonderful five-course reunion dinner, laid on by Brenda Fletcher, ably assisted by two cook-trainees from a local domestic training college. What a spread! And as the Londoners were heard to say "it does justice to anything served in the West End". Light burned late and reminiscences flowed. On Sunday morning we held a private service of thanksgiving and remembrance in Cromford parish church, when the names of old camp friends who had died in the years between were read out as a roll of honour, and absent friends were thought of in the prayers. A fitting close to a wonderful reunion weekend.

Deep thanks were expressed to Toc H for the use of Alison House and to its staff, who seemed to be caught up in the spirit of joy. The financial result of the weekend was a gift of 50 guineas to the British Red Cross Society as a token of their wonderful work for PoWs during the war years, and a donation to Toc H general funds. But perhaps more important, some 40 strangers to Toc H left for their homes holding a very friendly impression of our Movement as a result of holding their reunion under the shelter of the roof of Alison House. I was proud to think that this was another case of Toc H in action.

## Good publicity attracted 120 people

A coffee evening arranged by the men's and women's branches in Kettering as a way of making Toc H better known in the borough attracted over 120 people. This encouraging attendance was the result of personal invitation and advertisements in the personal column of the local paper. Displays were arranged illustrating the wide range of the branches' work—hospital shop and

library trolleys, emergency flashing light scheme, outings for old people, a sports day for handicapped children and a firework display for educationally subnormal children. Particularly popular was the automatic display of captioned slides, which traced the history of the Movement as well as showing local activities. Four of those present expressed an interest in branch life.



# picture point

**RIGHT**  
When Lambeth Joint branch organised a party for old people, schoolgirls from West Norwood welcomed the guests at the door and helped to entertain them.

*Photo: West Norwood & Dulwich News.*



**LEFT**  
Jimmy Savile meets Toc H Vice-Patron, The Hon. Angus Ogilvy, when he was presented with a suit to wear on his T.V. show "Top of the Pops". The presentation took place at NAYC Headquarters and the suit was designed and made up by members of the PHAB (Physically handicapped and able-bodied) club.

*NAYC Photo.*

**RIGHT**  
Heathfield Youth Centre have won the Toc H quiz finals for the second year. In the final the team, comprising Nicholas Crispin, John Kay, Sally Crispin and Graham Pope, beat Bexhill 58 points to 34. Also in our picture, taken by the Club leader, are A. H. G. Price, County Further Education Adviser, who presented the cup, and John Tallant, Toc H Heathfield branch and Youth Club chairman.





# "when can we go again, sir?"

¶ The many people who will be involved in running Toc H camps this summer will, inevitably, have moments of frustration when they wonder whether it's all worth while. M. A. Khan, who wrote this account of the camp for Liverpool children in North Wales last summer, has no doubt. Mr. Khan is a teacher at the Liverpool school from which the children came.

When I announced in my class that a week's free holiday for 12 children was to be organised by Toc H in North Wales there was the usual reaction that is expected from any children whenever holidays are mentioned. There were a few questioning looks and quite a number of excited and childish questions. The most prominent one of course was "Who is going, sir? Can I go, sir?"

I went on to explain. It was to be a week's holiday camp for 12 selected children away from their city environment in beautiful, healthy country surroundings, with plenty of fresh air and open air activities. We, the Staff at Windsor Street School, are ever conscious of the financial difficulties which the parents of a large number of our children continually face. Imagine the delight of those who were eventually chosen after much headache and soul searching. This was a difficult task and one which was only carried out in consultation with all the members of the Staff and of course under the guidance of Miss Jones, C.B.E., our headmistress.

I cannot say exactly what the children did while out there but listening to them talking about their stay at Golan even after the summer vacation in September to conclude that they enjoyed themselves was not difficult.

Then, of course, there was the day when I was able to visit them. I only had to have one

glimpse at the place where the children were staying, the conditions under which they spent their time there, and most of all, the completely relaxed atmosphere which prevailed generally, to realise that the holiday had really been worth while and that the children were obviously benefiting from it.

It is difficult to put into words and express the overwhelming feelings of joy? . . . pride? . . . happiness? . . . well!! sheer delight which I felt when I saw my children in such a contrasting environment and so different as though they were all transplanted from a mere existence into this dynamic way of living. Those very familiar cries of "sir! sir! Sir!" were no longer piercing, irritating or annoying, but full of excitement and even gentle. "sir! . . . come on sir! . . . the man said we could go over the wall, sir! . . . into his field."

"Look sir! . . . Joey is after some 'butterflies', sir! . . ."

"Butties? What's that? Oh! . . . you mean butterflies."

"Yes sir! . . . look sir! here's a 'Frenchie' it's smashing" (the more colourful ones are Frenchies).

"Look sir! we caught some 'Croakies' as well, sir!" (Frogs) . . . and in their excited and beautiful voices they clampered for attention, educating me about "What they done".

## Excellent change

I could say what an excellent change it is, but what do I mean by *it*? Well that is something you can only appreciate if you have been with these children in Liverpool 8 and then at Golan.

Did they appreciate it? Well this is something only they themselves and their parents can answer of course. You only have to mention the subject and the immediate glow on their faces will give you your answer . . . "When can we go again, sir? . . . I wanna go there again, sir! . . ."

It was over all too soon for them but what about those who were in charge and gave their valiant help during this week? "Exhausting"; I think that's their verdict. Their help was invaluable and must be appreciated.

# one only True God

*Divine signalman, autocratic  
doesn't seem right, not democratic.  
One carriage load switched to Elysian Fields  
the next to the Sulphur mines  
or held at Limbo junction, waiting  
for the green or red light.  
Almost a heavenly eleven plus  
too much class distinction,  
better extinction.*

*But perhaps the old boy's a Committee  
waiting for you and me.  
But just imagine the minutes.  
The hours, the days, decades, eons  
in the queue, light years long.  
Entertained by demon busking one-man bands.  
While the nattering self-righteous lot  
made up their minds,  
cool, or hot.*

*Theologically it's all very difficult  
to understand,  
is my true god just my helping hand?*

Keith Rea

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